Aughl I still couldn't get this out in time, and I had promised to do so, too. I really want to keep this newsletter monthly, but it's getting harder and harder. Andy Dursin had expressed support for the monthly schedule I proposed last newsletter, but I don't know if I'm up to it. What happened this month was that Andy went on vacation and got SCORE to me a little bit late, then I was very busy for a few weeks and now the SCL is a little bit late. So, the whole thing is a lot late. If this lateness keeps up I have an alternate plan, whereby the SCL and SCORE would alternate months (SCORE in February, SCL in March, SCORE in April, etc.). This may not not seem very appealing but it would allow for larger respective issues and account for the international mail lag now going on, where responses to the previous issue come in just as the new issue goes out. A bi-monthly system would allow each issue to be faller in content and more composed in format, as it's not being rushed or coordinated with the other newsletter directly. So, we'll see. WAR: As we all know by now, there is one. Amer Khalid is the only one living in proximity to the Iraci war zone-I don't know how his region will hold out through the conflict. On a superficial note, the war will no doubt slow down the already sluggish Pakistani postal system. TYPESIZE: Is this type (and the style last issue) too hard to read? Let me know and I'll inflate it. ADDRESSES: These have stayed pretty constant this month. Michael Thompson will be moving sometime soon, so he might be too busy to write right away, but his post office box activess will stay the same so nobody has to worry about that. SCORE REVIEWS: Andy seports the latest batch of reviews to be much better in length-good job, members! As always, the review requirements are 3-4 sentences in length, list all important information, try to review new releases, and include a letter grade. He notes that there shouldn't be too many A+'s, because all soundracks have to conform to their films at some point, but on the other hand I'd like to point out that there probably won't be too many D's and F's because people don't seally buy soundracks they know they won't like. MARK HAMILTON'S MOVIE REVIEWS: Mark hints that this is on its way. Michael Thompson is the only one so far to provide feedback on the idea, and he notes that the idea sounds pretty good, but may run into trouble because of international movie lag-he just recently saw Total Recall for the first time, a film released in the US in June. So, it might amount to 90% of the reviews being done by a few people. That's a valid point, though it by certainly doesn't mean the death of the concept. Let's hear some more feedback on the idea. I think that perhaps Mark's newsletter could be used to evalutate soundtracks in context of the film, which can't really be done now in SCORE, as that's reviewing the soundtracks on their own. ST:TNG REVIEWS: I have almost a full list of 1st and 2nd season episodes and a few 3rd season episodes from Amer Khalid, but I have yet to type them up, nor have I received any demand for them. If anyone wants a copy of Amer's in depth reviews, write and I'll xerox it off. SCL SOUNDTRACK LIST: Michael Thompson has expressed interest in typing this up, an idea proposed last issue by Francel Diaz Lenero. Send him your list if you want, with the only required information being composer and format (LP, Cass, CD). Updates could be done monthly to cover new purchases. I am forwarding Michael my list and Francel's list, since Francel gave me his list for that purpose (if there's a problem, Francel, let me know). I have the lists of a few other members-let me know if I should or shouldn't forward your list if you're one of those members.

SCL MEMBERS

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Steven Speed - address still unclear at present. Steven, you out there?

Michael Thompson, PO Box 432, Maitland 2320., N.S.W. Australia

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Amer Khalid Zahid, 184/0 Block 2, P.E.C.H.S. Kharachi-29, PAKISTAN

CURRENT SCORES

From the New York Times of January 20, 1991: The Grifters-Elmer Bernstien-Varèse, Once Around-James Horner, supervised by Diane De Louise Wessel-Varèse, Flight of the Intruder-Basil Poledouris, Come See The Paradise-n/a, The Bonfire of the Vanities-Dave Grusin-?, Misery-Marc Staiman-Basy Cities, Dances With Wolves-John Barry-n/a, Postcards from the Edge-Carly Simon-?, Vincent & Theo-n/a, Green Card-Hans Zimmer-Varèse, The Long Walk Home-n/a, Edward Scissorhands-Danny Elfman-MCA, White Fang-n/a, Alice (Woody Allen-soundtrack most likely a compilation of jazz/swing tunes), The End of Innocence-n/a, Awakenings-Randy Newman-Reprise, Not Without My Daughter-Jerry Goldsmith-Intrada, The Shekering Sky-Ryuichi Sakamoto-Virgin, The Godfather Part III-Carmine Coppola-Columbia, Hamlet-Ennio Morricone-Virgin, Too Mach San-David Robbins, Mermaids-Jack Nitzsche-Geffen, The Russia House-Jerry Goldsmith-MCA, Men of Respect-Misha Segal, Goodfellas-n/a-Atlantic, Lionheart-John Scott-Intrada, Reversal of Fortune-Mark Isham, Kindergarten Cop-Randy Edelman-Varèse, Home Alone-John Williams-CBS, Eve of Destruction-Phillip Sarde. New films in the New York Times of January 27: Queens Logic-Gary Goetzman and Sharon Boyle-Epic, Popcom-Paul J. Zaza, Meet the Applegates-David Newman, Run...Because Your Life Depends On It-Paul Marshall, Book of Love-Stanley Clarke.

SCORE NEWS:

James Horner is indeed back, scoring Once Around, which I assume will be a low-key quiet score. Goldmith has been quite busy, scoring The Russia House and Not Without My Daughter, which stars Sally Field trying to get out of Iran (or something). Paul MacLean reports that the score was seconded in London with the National Philharmonic Orchestra, and Intrada will be releasing the CD. (Intrada's address is: Intrada, 1488 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA 94109.) Ermio Morricone has scored the latest Hamlet film, directed by Zefferelli and staring the Road Warrior himself, and it sounds great from the HBO preview I saw, providing that wasn't music tracked in from someplace else. Unfotunately, it doesn't look like the film will subtitle the old Elizabethan English, which I think would be a great idea. Moving on, Mark Hamilton reports that "The Neverending Story II: The Next Chapter" will be scored by Robert Folk (Police Academy) with songs by Giorgio Muroder (Top Gun, Fame, Neverending Story). He also reports that Nicholas Meyer (ST II) will direct Star Teck VI, which means Homer may do the music (Meyer and Homer also worked together on Volunteers), and Michael Kamen will probably score Hadson Hawk with Brace Willis, as it's a Joel Silver film. Other movies Mark mentions are Alien III, Terminator II: Judgement Day, and The Naked Gun 2 1/2, which has a title about as furmy as the one Mel Brooks registered a while ago, possibly as a joke: "Spaceballs 3: The Search for Spaceballs 2."

ALBUM NEWS:

Lots of news here. GNP Crescendo has finally released Star Trek II on CD—see their full page ad in Starlog 163. The CD sounds great (it was a digital recording), though it includes no extra tracks. Mark Hamilton has also got it and he gives it a "No need to review this—A+!" This release joins GNP's release of Star Trek III and their new release of music from Alien Nation, the Series. That CD is a godsend for Alien Nation fans like myself, though non-AN fans probably won't care for it. Mark Hamilton also notes that the Battle Beyond the Stars CD, promised 6 months ago, is still not out. And about that long ago mentioned Legend CD? Paul MacLean finally cued me in on the latest news: The album is definitely a go, since Silva Screen now owns rights to the recording. Jerry Goldsmith will be the one deciding which tracks go on it, one of the probable new tracks being the climactic "Dungeon Battle." The Goldsmith Society is in affiliation with Silva Screen in production of the release—details are being kept so secret not even Paul is being told the entire story. The LP is listed in Silva's current catalog, with CD to follow. Paul also has news concerning composer interviews—there was one with Danny Elfanan in the 9 Dec 90 New York Times (I have this if anyone wants a copy), and a brief John Barry one in Premiere concerning Dances With Wolves. Finally, Paul notes that John Williams will be honored by The Society for the Preservation of Film Music in late February/early march.

BUY AND SELL

Ángel Luis Santana Díaz will get the ball rolling here, a section suggested earlier by Amer Khalid. Ángel will offer to trade cassettes of Top Gan, Rocky IV, Salsa, Star Trek II, CE3K, and Batman (Prince) for CD's of Black Hole, Alien, Conan, Superman II, Supergirl, or King Kong (1976). I don't imagine the actual battering to take place in the SCL newsletter itself, so I suppose write to Ángel if you're interested.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (AND GOSSIP ALL AROUND)

- Q: From Angel Luis Santana: Is there a Bill Conti soundtrack for The Big Blue, since the Eric Serra one isn't the same?
- A: For Amer Khalid Zahid: On the subject of Allen Quartermain and the Lost City of Gold, Angel Luis Santana notes that the composer was Michael Linn.
- A: For Michelle Drayton: Angel Luis Santana offered some more info on Miracle Mile, saying he's seen the CD and that the video has been out for a year.
- A: For the late Howard Clucas, for the interest of the members: Paul MacLean reports that there wasn't a soundtrack for The Burbs—one memor is that fell under a re-use film waver or somesuch.
- A: For Amer Khalid Zahid: Angel Luis Santana says he's seen the CD for Somewhere in Time at Sam Goody.
- A: For Amer Khalid Zahid again: Paul MacLean reports that Project 3 Records released a record of Maurice Jame's Lion of the Desert in 1980 when the film came out, and that Silva Screen is reissuing a CD of Mohammed Messenger of God.

On the gossip/interesting tidbit side, Mark Hamilton reports that Joel Goldsmith, who is scoring Super Force and scored a European release, "Moon 44," is indeed related to another Goldsmith we all know and love—Joel is Jerry's son.

WANTED

Looker (Nitzsche), V-Final Battle (McCarthy), and Young Guns for Michelle Drayton, and Somewhere In Time, which has been located, for Amer Khalid.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD

Everyone I've heard from has expressed sorrow at Howard's death, and Jeanny Driscoll has written me back with her actives and Howard's parents' address: Jeanny Driscoll, 36 Ridge Road, La Lucia, Durban, Natal 4051, SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. and Mrs. Clucas, 2 Eagles Nest, 129 Victoria Road, Campsbay, Cape Town 8001, SOUTH AFRICA

Howard's death came from his leaving his Johannesburg house for his Cape Town home, miles and miles away, late at night, and running into coors in the road at a high speed. His friends, Jearmy among them, are grief-stricken. Jearmy's actives is open to the members and she says she loves to correspond with "anybody and everybody." Pethaps Amer Khalid said it best, quoting Tasha Yar from Star Trek: The Next Generation, when she says, "Death is that stage in which one exists only in the memories of others." It would be hypocritical for me to say how much I will miss Howard, since I honestly didn't know him all that well. However, the loss of any life is always a tragic occurance, and I can understand how much worse it must be for those who did know Howard well, like Jearmy. Death is a painful experience, and we can all feel the yearn of those who knew Howard best, even if the rest of us can just be shocked at the news and try not to say the wrong thing. I will write to Howard's parents, and I will try very hard not to say the wrong thing. There's only so much I can do, only having four letters as records of Howard's existence, but I will try. I'm no expert on death, but it would probably be nice if everyone dropped Mr. and Mrs. Clucas a postcard or letter, to let them know that although we didn't know Howard all that well, we did know him, and that his presence was felt in his life in all the four corners of the world, and it will be missed in his death. Through our memories, Howard can remain alive.

ANDY DURSIN P.O.Box 846 Greenville, R.I. 02828

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JANUARY 1991 #3

Lots of great new scores have hit the record store shelves here in the U.S., with some of the year's best offerings now available. Since I have not recieved many reviews in the past couple of weeks, this issue will indeed be shorter than the jam-pakced December SCORE that was recently sent out. Also, we're going on schedule. So if you want to get your letters in the February issue, send all material by the middle of the month. Dont delay or we'll have to wait to print your letter the following month. In other words, send material as soon as you get any issue of SCORE. You'll probably be recieving this two weeks after it was typed up (the week of December 14-21), so send your letters as promptly as possible. Again, here are the requirements:

- 1) ALL REVIEWS WITHIN THREE OR FOUR SENTENCES..PLEASE! It seems many of you are realizing this, and I greatly appreciate it. We have to save as much space as possible for reviews each month, and the shorter your review is—the better! So do try to get your review within a paragraph.
- 2) When reviewing a release, include (if possible) the following: running time data, record company (and if you can—the ordering "catalog" number), and, of course, composer. Anything special about the release? Great booklet notes, art, previously unreleased tracks? Tell us.
- 3) You are free to review anything you want, but try to keep your reviews to releases done within the past few years. Re-releases do count. New release reviews and needed and especially welcome.
- 4) Include a grade, and dont give every release an "A+". To be really honest, there really arent a whole lot of "A+" music soundtracks simply because on virtually every soundtrack album, theres obviously some music which corresponds ONLY to the action on-screen. When you listen to it, without the picture, the music doesnt have much impact. Yes, there are great scores every now and then...but there is a big difference between an "A+" (which I would reserve only for classic soundtrack status, i.e. "Star Wars" or "Gone With the Wind") and an "A". Just keep that in mind, and rate your releases A to F. A is the high, F is the low.

NEW RELEASES

Home Alone, Rocky V (and a new related compilation album entitled The Rocky Story) and John Williams Conducts John Williams: The Star Wars Trilogy, as well as Dances with Wolves, all are available from CBS. Predator 2 by Alan Silvestri is indeed out in stores in both CD and tape from Varese Sarabande. While I dont rian on buying the album, the music in the film seemed to be an exact duplicate of Silvestri's score for the original "Predator". (Which, at least to my knowledge was never released as a soundtrack). That should be helpful to Michael Thompson, who was looking for "Predator" a few months ago in the SCL wanted section. Russia House by Goldsmith and Edward Scissorhands were expected to be out in stores by the end of December, both from MCA. Also, another brand-new Goldsmith score will be released by Intrada. Not Without My Daughter is the new Sally Field drama, and Goldsmith's score was written up as "one of the warmest and most beautiful themes Jerry has written in years" in the January Intrada Records catalog. The score will be released at the end of January by Intrada, so more next month on that.

DANNY ELFMAN:MUSIC FOR A DARKENED THEATRE Volume One. Music composed by Danny Elfman. MCA CDs and Cassettes(MCA-10095). 17 tracks-- 73:21 /// This is about as perfect as a compilation can get. Elfman's versatile career, flipping from his rock group Oingo Boingo to film scoring over five years ago and since alternating between the two, is a true Hollywood success story. This album contains lengthy suites from the original Elfman soundtracks for such films as "Batman", "Nightbreed", "Beetlejuice", etc. but remastered and completely re-edited. And for those who already own those albums, there are several unreleased themes and suites, from "The Simpsons" to an 8-minute selection from "Scrooged". A real must-have on all levels. A

HOME ALONE Music by John Williams. CBS Records, CDs and Cassettes (STK 46595). 19 tracks— 57:21// John Williams has written so many memorable scores for various movies that its hard to imagine a "Star Wars" or "E.T." without his music. His scores add so much to a movie, and "Home Alone" is a good movie made even better by Williams' lyrical, Christmas—like score, his best score since "Empire of the Sun" won numerous awards in 1987. There are three Christmas tracks, but most of the album is Williams' beautiful music, clearly one of the year's very best. A

DANCES WITH WOLVES Music by John Barry. Epic/Associated CDs, Cassettes and Records(ZK 46982).

18 tracks--- 53:29 /// To my surprise, John Barry may not have survived an illness that plagued the last few years of his life had three doctors not done an incredible job. "Dances with Wolves, is dedicated to those three doctors, and this is an excellent Barry score that perfectly fits Kevin Costner's acclaimed film. While Barry's score sounds very similar in spots to previous Barry efforts, it's still a lush, romantic, and, when it needs to be, stirring and rousing score. Barry is indeed back, and, thankfully, back in top form. B+

-Andy Dursin

Member Reviews

Several reviews of recent soundtracks are in this month's mail bag, so here they are.

THE CARL STALLING PROJECT Music by Carl Stalling. Warner Bros. Records CDs and Cassettes. 15 tracks—77:13 /// A long overdue compilation of Carl Stalling's looney scores for all those Warner Bros. cartoons of the 30s-50s. This music is distinctly Bugs Bunny. Notable for wild tempo changes, inclusions of popular and classical "quotes", and total disregard for everything that music teachers teach about theme and structure—it goes from full blast to a lone piccolo and back again in a second. The CD is long with cuts selected from throughout Stalling's career, and the booklet has some good articles about Stalling's career, and also includes some recording sessions. Whether you like this CD depends on whether or not you like cartoons—if you don't it'll drive you nuts. B+ —Lukas Kendall

DANCES WITH WOLVES Music by John Barry. (See above for additional information) /// Terry Broz gives another look at the latest from John Barry. "It would be difficult to say that John Barry has done a better score, since his music (for this film) is so stirringly done. The soundtrack exquistiely captures the panorama of the West in 1864 that is masterfully created by Mr.Costner in his directorial debut. This film very much reveals that a great score makes the movie". Terry also notes that "as many soundtrack enthusiasts know, one cannot simply see John Barry's music, it has to be heard. In (this) case, you will not only hear it, you will experience it. Definately look for this score to be an Oscar contender next year!". I completely agree. Terry rates this score the highest we have--an A+

TWIN PEAKS Music by Angelo Badalamenti. Warner Bros. Records CDs and Cassettes (WB 9 26316-2). 11 tracks-- 49:54 /// Terry Broz grades the recently released soundtrack to David Lynch's offbeat (to put it mildly) TV show that either turns you on or turns you off, literally, in a matter of minutes. "Badalamenti's music goes along very well with the offbeat nature (of the show), in fact Lynch co-produced the soundtrack, also lending his hand as the lyricist for three vocal tracks, as performed hauntingly by Julee Cruise. All in all, I think this is a very interesting collection of songs. Songs which fit very well with the nature of the show". Indeed, Terry. Badalamenti's music is a huge factor in this program's mood and success. Naturally, fans of the show will probably like it more than anyone else. Terry rates it an A-

And that takes care of member review letters for this month. Again, due to our deadlines, RUSH your material to me A.S.A.P.

SCORE OF THE YEAR AWARD?

Other notes: Does anyone want to have a "Score of the Year" award? If so, send in your vote for the year's best soundtrack. Send in three or four nominees which you feel are the year's best. If everyone comes through here, I'll then narrow down the nominees depending on your response and the following month have a vote-in winner from those nominees selected. So send in your nominees, and then we'll have, probably, five nominees to choose from the following month. I know that you cant hear every score, but if you think you've heard enough of the "major" works by major composers over the past year, then vote! (No re-releases count, I guess).

NEXT MONTH: A critical rundown on Jerry Goldsmith's "THE OMEN" trilogy, seeing that all three scores are now available on CD for the first time. (By the way, an "Omen IV" is currently filming airing in the Spring on the Fox TV Network, U.S. only. I heard it will be released to theaters overseas. Nothing on the music, but I'd doubt that Goldsmith would score it. Dominick Othenin-Girard, who filmed "Halloween 4", is directing). ALSO: Reviews of Jerry Goldsmith's THE RUSSIA HOUSE and Danny Elfman's already-acclaimed score for EDWARD SCISSORHANDS. Plus more news on that other new Goldsmith score, NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER, due out late January.

Happy New Year!
Andy Dursin, editor

SCORE JANUARY EDITION//LATE SUPPLEMENT

HOLD IT! Just as I finished writing the January issue of SCORE some new soundtracks eagerly awaited by many were released, so I went out and bought both THE RUSSIA HOUSE and EDWARD SCISSORHANDS. That, coupled with some new Member Reviews contributed by Amer Khalid, meant an additional page to this month's newsletter.

New Releases

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS Music by Danny Elfman. MCA CDs and Cassettes(MCA-10133). DDD recording. 17 tracks-- 49:31 /// All of Danny Elfman's scores for Tim Burton's movies have pretty much become classics ("Pee-Wee's Big Adventure", "Beetlejuice" and "Batman"). Elfman's unusual score for Burton's latest screen opus goes along with the movie--it's different. This is a lyrical, quiet fairy tale soundtrack that beautifully fits Burton's inventive visuals and, to put it mildly, unique characters. "Edward" is a creative and ambitious effort from Elfman, and most of it works. While those who dont like Elfman's method of scoring will no doubt find faults with this album as well, I found it poignant and perfect for the film. A-

THE RUSSIA HOUSE Music by Jerry Goldsmith, saxophone and additional arrangements by Branford Marsalis. MCA CDs and Cassettes(MCA-10136). 17 tracks-- 61:39 /// This eagerly-awaited score from Goldsmith will certainly not disappoint anyone whose been reading about "The Russia House" for over a year now. This is a jazz-flavored, romantic and lush soundtrack that works on two seperate levels--Goldsmith's orchestrations and Marsalis' outstanding saxophone work. Usually when a big-name musician comes to work on a film, his music is done seperately than the actual music/orchestral score. But here Marsalis and Goldsmith have combined on a winning score that should be watched for when the Oscar nominations come out in a few months. Patti Austin contributes the vocal theme of the film, with Goldsmith's music and Alan and Marilyn Bergman's lyrics coupled with Marsalis' sax to produce a winner of a soundtrack. A

Anyone who was waiting for either of those soundtracks should not be disappointed, especially with THE RUSSIA HOUSE, which is probably Goldsmith's best work since his Oscar-nomination on HOOSIERS(1986). Those who read SCORE will notice that I tend not to grade highly often—but three "A"s, an "A-" and a "B+" are on this issue's reviews. Honestly, the past month has produced some, if not all, of the best soundtracks of 1990. Although I did not buy PREDATOR 2, I would, based on what I saw in the film, rate the album an C-. But it is pretty unfair to judge a soundtrack album without buying the soundtrack, just like buying the soundtrack without seeing the movie is only half the experience of hearing the music.

Member Reviews

Amer Khalid contributes two brief reviews for this month's issue:

EMPIRE OF THE SUN Music by John Williams. Warner Bros CDs, Cassettes and Records.

13 tracks-- 52:50 /// John Williams' finest! Has got to be the most original and inventive state-of-the-art score. Tracks like 'Jim's New Life' to the exciting scherzo 'The Streets of Shanghai' are some of the big highlights. The score is very down to earth, melodious aided by lush orchestra, containing vocal works of the Ambrosian Jr.Choir. A+

(<u>Note</u>:While overgrading does happen every now and then, EMPIRE OF THE SUN is a classic score well-deserving of an A+ in anyone's book. The score, Oscar-nominated and BAFTA award-winning, should be on everyone's shelves. And it is still available in most retail outlets).

CHOST Music by Maurice Jarré. Varese Sarabande CDs and Cassettes(VSD-5276). 8tracks-- 38:39 /// With all that hype on this bestselling album, I decided to buy it. And the question is...is it worth it? You betcha! This is a masterpiece done by Jarré; contains a lot of electronic percussion and some melodious strings, though not very orchestral. Includes the song "Unchained Melody" performed by the Righteous Brothers and an instrumental version. A-

Again, everyone out there is welcomed to respond to my reviews and those of the members. If you disagree, dont just sit and home and talk to yourself! Write in. I'll mildly disagree with Amer on GHOST--I honestly found the score to be pretty weak in thematic material, with "Unchained Melody" popping up throughout the score all too often. OK, we disagree there. What about you?